

EXTRACT FOR ICEBERG ADM

MAVA-2449 (K4POK)

7 February 1949

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT FOR DECEMBER 1948

SDI 7/2, Operational Tasks

19. We are deeply dissatisfied with station progress in recruitment of W/T operators. Although it is evident from memoranda transmitted to Washington that a good deal of energy has been expended in attempts at locating W/T operators, we now, at the end of a year's effort, find that we have trained only () and () and that only () remains. He, to all appearances represents a firm asset. It is clear that, had Austria been overwhelmed by the Soviets at or shortly after the imposition of the Berlin blockade, our W/T effort would have been entirely inadequate. Security considerations have been partially responsible for our painful slowness in acquiring W/T operators. Experience ~~in~~ in Italy during the war revealed that W/T operators, hastily recruited and placed by the Germans, represented only a gesture worse than futile. At any rate, we have buried ten W/T sets in and around Vienna, have transmitted to Washington careful memoranda descriptions of the locations of these sets, and have surveyed for Washington the stay-behind possibilities of all our principal agents. In the event that Austria is cut off by the Soviets, the W/T sets are in place, principal agents remain, operators can be sent or dropped in from outside the country, and recognition signals have been prepared for this contact with stay-behind personnel. Needless to say, the () arrest and () compromise set us back considerably.

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